

BULLETIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION AGAINST THE VENEREAL DISEASES AND TREPONEMATOSES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1967

The 25th General Assembly of the International Union against the Venereal Diseases and Treponematoses, held in Munich at the Sitzungssaal des Messehauses from August 6–9, 1967, was attended by 135 individuals from 28 countries.

I. Opening of the Meeting

The President, Mr Ambrose King, welcomed the delegates and observers and in particular two ex-Presidents of the Union, Prof. Hermans and Dr Bruce Webster. It was also a pleasure to welcome Mr Earle Lippincott, the Executive Director of the American Social Health Association. The Conference just concluded had been very successful and the President thanked all the speakers who had presented papers and taken part in the discussion. On the first day, dealing with the social and educational problems of venereal diseases among young people, it was interesting that the balance of evidence was against widespread promiscuity among the young. There seemed to be a recognizable pattern of character and behaviour among the promiscuous. Common findings were broken homes, bad environment, inadequate parents, poor scholastic records, frequent changes of employment, absence of leisure pursuits, and in many cases psychiatric abnormalities. It did not seem feasible, however, that all patients attending V.D. Clinics should undergo psychiatric treatment; there were limited resources and also it was undesirable that patients should gain the impression that they were mentally abnormal just because they had given way to temptation.

On the second day, the techniques of health education in relation to venereal diseases had been discussed. A

reclassification of these infections under the heading of behavioural disease was suggested. The V.D. Clinic should be the centre of research employing all the resources of the social scientists; if individuals could attain psychological and sexual maturity venereal diseases might be avoided. Sex education was only one vital dimension of education for family life. Audio-visual methods of instruction were favoured by most, but there was some evidence in favour of a self-teaching instructional manual. The subsequent sessions had dealt mainly with medical matters concerned with the subject of non-gonococcal urethritis. Finally, the joint WHO-IUVDT survey on medical education had been brought up to date. It appeared that in many parts of the world the medical profession tended still to neglect this important subject and provided inadequate instruction to undergraduates, especially on the public health aspects.

Before proceeding with the agenda the President thanked Prof. Kalkoff, President of the German Organization Committee, and Prof. Heite, Secretary-General, for all their help in arranging such a successful meeting and providing such excellent social events. The Conference Secretariat and interpreters were also to be congratulated. Mr King also welcomed Dr T. Guthe, Dr J. Burton, and Dr N. Radavanovic, the representatives of WHO. Finally he thanked the Secretary-General, Prof. G. A. Canaperia of the IUVDT and his Assistant Secretaries, Mrs Josephine Tuller and Dr Axel Perdrup, for their close co-operation.

The President then invited Dr T. Guthe to address the assembly, after which Prof. Canaperia, Mrs Tuller, Dr Perdrup, and the Treasurer, Dr G. Tassi, would present their reports.

**II. Statement at the Opening Session
by T. Guthe, M.D., M.P.H., Chief Medical
Officer, Venereal Disease and Treponematoses,
Division of Communicable Diseases, WHO,
Geneva**

The Director-General of the WHO regrets his inability to be present at this opening of the XXV Assembly of the IUVDT. He conveys his greetings to the President of the Union, Mr King (Ministry of Health), London, to its Secretary-General, Prof. G. A. Canaperia (Ministry of Health), Rome, to Prof. Kalkoff, President of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für die Bekämpfung der Geschlechtskrankheiten, and to the participants at the Assembly.

It is recalled that the IUVDT has now maintained official relationship as a non-governmental international body with the WHO in joint efforts to combat venereal infections and treponematoses for almost 20 years. Very useful collaboration has manifested itself during these years—at the central level of our organizations as well as at the regional level—particularly in regard to the Pan-American Health Organization/WHO Regional Office for the Americas in Washington, D.C., and the Regional Office of the Union for the Americas, New York, under the directorship of Mrs J. Tuller, and between the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the Union's European Office in Copenhagen, under Dr A. Perdrup.

There is evidence in most parts of the world to-day of our inability to control syphilis and gonorrhoea by present epidemiological and clinical methods. Most of what can be expected by use of "ideal" drugs like the antibiotics is apparently being achieved. No new agents—short of vaccines—are likely to improve substantially the present situation. The multiplicity of human ecological forces concerned in the epidemiological spread of venereal disease in our time have been shown to be beyond the influence of antibiotics.

The IUVDT has, therefore, an important role to play in the promotion—nationally and internationally—of social and educational techniques designed to limit the spread of venereal infections. The technical discussions at the Assembly of the Union in relation to young people are therefore important.

I am honoured to represent the WHO at this Assembly, with my colleagues Dr J. Burton and Dr N. Radavanovic, and on behalf of the WHO we wish you a fruitful and useful meeting.

**III. Report of the Secretary-General
Prof. G. A. Canaperia**

Our activities, during the last 16 months, have been concerned mainly with the preparation of this meeting, in collaboration with the German Organizing Committee and with the assistance of the Programme Committee of the Union. A Provisional Programme was prepared according to the decisions taken at the meeting of the Executive Committee in Paris in April, 1966, and was circulated among our members and those interested in

our problems. Speakers were invited to present contributions, and summaries of the reports and of communications were collected and translated into the three working languages. Working out the Final Programme proved to be difficult, owing to the large number of papers submitted, indicating the increasing interest in the social, educational, and public health problems of V.D. We met with Prof. Heite in Rome in April, 1967, to finalize the programme which was then distributed in advance to participants.

It is my pleasant duty to thank Prof. Kalkoff and Prof. Grüneberg, respectively President and Vice-President of the German Organizing Committee, and most particularly the enthusiastic and active Secretary-General, Prof. Heite, to whom the credit is due for the success of our meeting. I also wish to thank Prof. Jadassohn, President of the International Conference of the Dermatological Societies, for his kind collaboration and for having agreed to hold a joint meeting on syphilis prior to our own meeting on August 3 and 4.

During the period 1965 to 1967 our Executive Committee has met once in Paris in April, 1966, and once in Munich on August 6, 1967, just before the opening of the Conference.

Publications The Proceedings of the Conference held in Lisbon in April, 1965, were published by the Portuguese Committee and were ready for distribution to participants at the beginning of 1966, and copies were also sent free to all members, organizations, and individuals. I wish to express our gratitude to our Portuguese colleagues, and particularly to Prof. Norton Brandão and to Dr Da Cruz Sobral who have accomplished such an excellent task.

New Statutes and By-laws These represent the legal instrument for the work of the Union, as approved by the Executive Committee and by the General Assembly, and have been published and distributed to all members.

The Bulletin The *Bulletin* for 1966, with the Proceedings of our last Assembly, was published in English by the *British Journal of Venereal Diseases* and in French by *La Prophylaxie Sanitaire et Morale*, official organ of the French League; reprints, in both English and French, have been widely distributed. In accordance with decisions reached at the 1966 meeting of the Executive Committee, the Secretariat has prepared a *revised Brochure* in English and French to illustrate the activities, aims, and scope of the Union and to encourage the recruitment of new members; publication has been delayed in order to include the names of the new Officers of the Union to be elected by this Assembly.

Correspondence with members and future members of the Union, as well as with numerous individuals, libraries, scientific and medical bodies, and social organizations, has been particularly intensive during the last year. Numerous requests and queries have been answered, both by detailed information and by bibliographical data. The distribution of printed material to countries in every continent was much greater than hitherto.

Technical Activities At the last Assembly a preliminary report had been presented by Dr Bruce Webster on the world-wide survey of medical education and

training in venereology, undertaken by the Union in collaboration with WHO. The Assembly, expressing its appreciation for this important study, adopted a resolution recommending that the study be continued and that the possibilities be explored of organizing discussions with medical schools in different regions. In agreement with Dr Guthe, your Secretary-General approached the Division of Education and Training of WHO to explore the possibility of obtaining an additional contribution for further analysis and evaluation of the data already collected. A grant of \$500 was given by WHO and our Regional Office for the Americas, which had already done the preliminary work of collecting and tabulating the existing data, has completed a further analysis; the results of this have now been presented in a further report by Dr Webster. The conclusions that may be drawn from this study are that, although the situation in most schools is far from satisfactory, there is some recognition of the urgent need to promote and to expand the teaching of venereology. We should continue to do our best to improve the situation and I believe that a follow-up of this study is essential. This might be carried out by a number of consultants, who could study the situation directly in different parts of the world, or else send copies of the final report to various schools asking them to give information on any changes in the teaching of venereology which may have occurred. With the close collaboration of WHO we hope to be able to pursue this study.

Consultation and Representation Close and fruitful relations have been maintained with the United Nations agencies and non-governmental bodies working in similar or related fields. First I should like to mention our collaboration—consolidated over numerous years—with WHO and particularly with Dr Guthe, whose interest, inspiration, and assistance have always proved very valuable. In agreement with him the Union has written to the Director General of WHO pointing out the great interest, the unique nature, and the international significance of the comprehensive and efficient programme carried out by the United States Public Health Services, aiming at the eradication of syphilis; we have asked WHO to consider the possibility of organizing an international study group or a special commission to study and appraise such a programme. There is a reference to this suggestion in the Annual Report of the Director General of WHO for 1966.

In the preparation of the programme for the Munich Conference we have also availed ourselves of the collaboration of Dr Burton of the WHO Health-Education section, and his most interesting report was a valuable contribution to the success of our Conference.

Liaison with ECOSOC and UNICEF has been ensured by our Regional Office for the Americas, where Mrs Tuller has been very active and efficient; our Regional Director for Europe, Dr Perdrup, has maintained close liaison with the WHO Regional Office for Europe in Copenhagen, and Dr Radovanovic, representing EURO-WHO, has contributed a paper to our Technical Programme.

Following the policy of active participation recommended by the Assembly, the Union has been represented at several International meetings of WHO and of various non-governmental organizations having common interests. Together with one of our Vice-Presidents, Dr Tottie, I have represented the Union at the 18, 19,

and 20 General Assemblies of WHO in Geneva (May, 1965; May, 1966; and May, 1967); Dr Tassi represented the Union at the meeting of the WHO Regional Office for Europe in Istanbul in September, 1965; Dr Vannugli represented us at the meeting of the same Regional Office, in Rabat in 1966; Dr Webster attended the Seminar on V.D. sponsored by the Pan-American Health Organization together with the WHO Regional Office for the Americas, held in Washington in October, 1965; he also attended, as representative of the Union, a meeting of an "ad hoc committee" for reviewing the activities of CIOMS, which took place last year in Washington; Mrs Tuller represented the Union at the 17th Pan-American Sanitary Conference and Regional Meeting of WHO in Washington in 1966 at which she presented a statement on behalf of the Union; she also represented the Union at sessions of the Executive Board of UNICEF, at the Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations for UNICEF, and at ECOSOC meetings. The Union was invited to attend the Congress of the International Abolitionist Federation, on "Prostitution and Society To-day", which took place in Rome in May, 1966; Dr Perdrup and I attended on behalf of the Union, and Dr Catterall was a main speaker on the medical aspects of prostitution. The Union was also invited to send a seminar participant to the 3rd International Conference on Medical Education, sponsored by the World Medical Association, held in New Delhi in November, 1966, and Dr Rangiah (India) represented us there. I have also attended the meetings of the Executive Committee of CIOMS in Paris, in 1965 and 1966. The Union was also invited to send a representative at the UNICEF-sponsored symposium on "Children and Their World", held in Montreal (Canada) in June, 1967, and Dr L. P. Desrochers, Director of the Division for V.D. at the Ministry of Public Health at Montreal, represented us.

Finally, in 1965, 1966, and 1967, I attended the numerous meetings of the International Union for Health Education, with which we have been working in very close co-operation. Here in Munich we have had the pleasure of welcoming two representatives of the IUHE: Dr Beer, who presented the paper of Dr Aujoulat, the Secretary-General, and Dr Dalzell-Ward, Technical-Adviser, who have both given papers.

Membership We have continued our campaign for the recruitment of new members and I am happy to report that five more organizations have now joined the Union:

- (1) *Canada*, through the V.D. Division of the Ministry of Health of the Province of Quebec (Montreal);
- (2) *Lebanon*, through the V.D. Department of the Ministry of Health;
- (3) *Germany*, through the German Association against V.D. (D.G.B.G.);
- (4) *The German Federal Republic*, through the Society of Dermatology of the German Democratic Republic.
- (5) *Hungary*, through the Dermatological Society.

I must inform the Assembly that, by the authority given to the Executive Committee by the Assembly, Prof. Heite, Secretary-General of the D.G.B.G., has been elected Technical Counsellor of the Union.

The number of individual members has also increased considerably; there are now over forty, among them nine from Canada.

I now wish to extend our warmest thanks to Mr Pfeiffer and Dr Durel for their collaboration in securing registration of the Union, as a foreign Association, by the French Authorities, as the General Headquarters of our Organization are in Paris. The New Statutes have been deposited at the Prefecture-de-Police in Paris, and the Union has been authorized and registered under French Law. The decree, issued on August 2, 1965, was published in the *Journal Officiel* of September 3, 1965.

General Remarks and Conclusions It appears clear that the wide prevalence of venereal diseases has become a feature of modern life and presents an important public health problem in most countries. The Director General of WHO, in his recent report to the United Nations, speaking of the health hazards brought about by urbanization and industrialization, said that "in addition to basic problems of environmental sanitation and of communicable diseases, attention must also be given to problems posed by those symptoms of social disorders such as delinquency, venereal diseases, and drug abuse, which are increasingly evident". The disruption of family life and of the traditional patterns, the greater use by young people of contraceptive measures such as "the pill" and various intrauterine devices, lead inevitably to increased promiscuity and thus may be the cause of further spread of sexually-transmitted diseases.

There is no doubt that in the present situation national and international efforts should be intensified towards the efficient control and possible elimination of such diseases.

The Union has still a very important role to play, and I believe that the main lines of our policy in the future can still be based on the points which were outlined in a statement made by the Union at the 1964 Executive Board of WHO:

- (a) Medical education to be promoted in regard to venereology and its epidemiology;
- (b) Epidemiological methods of case-finding and contact-tracing to be intensified nationally and internationally;
- (c) Psychological and sociological aspects of human behaviour in relation to venereal diseases to be studied more systematically;
- (d) Health education methods to be put more widely into use;
- (e) Research to be stimulated, particularly in regard to medical, sociological, and public-health aspects.

The Union in collaboration with WHO is certainly in an excellent position to play its part because it is a voluntary organization providing the multidisciplinary approach which is essential in the study of sexually-transmitted diseases, and because it has close contacts

with the community, and can obtain the necessary participation from the populations concerned.

Mr President, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, 10 years ago, at our General Assembly in Stockholm in August, 1957, I had the privilege of being elected Secretary-General of the Union. During these 10 years of service I have endeavoured to give the Union a sound administrative and financial basis, to promote membership, and to develop technical activities within the aims and objectives as laid out in our Statutes. The financial situation may be considered satisfactory, as you will see from the report of our Treasurer. Not only have we paid off all old debts, but we were able to build up a reserve fund that I shall be very pleased to hand over to my successor, as a "spring-board" from which to start his work. At this point we must thank our Treasurer, Dr Tassi, who has vigilantly kept our expenditures within the modest resources of our income.

Our activities during this period are recorded in the reports which I have had the honour to present to the four General Assemblies (London, 1959; Washington, 1962; Lisbon, 1965; and Munich, 1967).

For what I have been able to achieve I am grateful to our Presidents, Dr Bruce Webster and Mr Ambrose King, to our two Regional Directors, Dr Perdrup and Mrs Tuller for their co-operation; to the Officers of the Executive Board for their assistance; and to all the members of the Union for their enthusiasm.

IV. Report of the Regional Director for the Americas Mrs Josephine Tuller

In presenting this report I wish first to express gratitude to the American Social Health Association for its sponsorship of the Union's Regional Office for the Americas during these many years. This close working relationship makes it possible for the international activities of the Association to be constantly identified with the Union and its programme.

We of the Regional Office are particularly happy to have with us at this Assembly the Executive Director of the ASHA, Earle Lippincott, whose support and encouragement have been an inspiration to our international efforts. A recent example of Mr Lippincott's support was his enthusiastic promotion of the study of the ASHA which evaluated the needs in the agency's fields of concern and defined its role. Results of the study emphasized the importance of the international programme, and when the necessary financial support becomes available, the ASHA plans to expand and strengthen its international programme on the basis of this firm directive.

Activities The distribution of material by the Regional Office for the Americas now extends to 76 countries, with approximately one-half of our total mailing list located in Latin America. Publications of the ASHA routinely sent overseas include *Today's V.D.*

Control Problem, which contains an International section that has been provided for the past several years by Dr Thorstein Guthe. This publication is compiled annually by the ASHA from a questionnaire sent to city and state health officers in the United States and its territories. We have extended distribution of the questionnaire to forty countries this year, asking our friends in overseas venereal disease control programmes for their comments and statistics, since expansion of the international section of the report is under consideration.

In co-operation with WHO's V.D.T. and Health Education technical report publications programme, the Regional Office for the Americas translated and distributed reports by Drs Alarcón, Burton, and Capiński to Spanish-speaking countries. Responses indicated the continuing shortage of printed materials in the region and until it is possible for us to offer field service, we must rely upon exchange of written information to strengthen communications. We ask that all Union members bring to our attention any reports which might be made available for the Americas.

I should now like to make mention of a few services and of some activities which may contain possibilities for future Union programme planning.

(A) PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

(1) Dr Webster and staff of the Regional Office for the Americas attended a Seminar on Venereal Diseases sponsored by the Pan-American Health Organization (Regional Office for the Americas of WHO) in co-operation with the United States Public Health Service and held in Washington, D.C., in October, 1965. Delegates included ministers of health and heads of departments of epidemiology from the Latin American countries. Since the Washington Seminar, we have been working to promote a follow-up meeting in Latin America for the venereal disease control workers themselves.

(2) The Director of the Regional Office for the Americas represented the Union at the XVII Pan-American Sanitary Conference (XVIII Regional Committee meeting of the WHO) in Washington, D.C., in October, 1966, and there presented a formal Statement by the Union, which reflected concern aroused by several significant omissions in the most recent PAHO recommendations for the venereal disease control programme in the Americas.

(3) The Executive Board of UNICEF met at UN headquarters in June, 1967, and the Director of the Regional Office for the Americas represented the Union at its sessions. We continue to be active on the Committee of Non-governmental Organizations for UNICEF, serving at present on the *ad hoc* publications committee of that group. Our voice in UNICEF's programme and our working relationship with other international non-governmental organizations, of which there are now 72 having consultative status with ECOSOC, is a continuing source of publicity for the Union's programme.

(B) WHO STUDY COMMISSION

There have been various proposals, including one that is contained in the Study of the ASHA, that WHO and the Union should promote an International Study Commission to travel through the United States to study venereal disease control methods and programmes at all

governmental and voluntary levels. Dr Cutler, who is a technical counsellor of the Union, has asked me to say in his absence that the Study Commission, deserves our strongest support. The Regional Office for the Americas wishes to offer its services in helping to assure the success of the project.

(C) NATIONAL STUDY OF VENEREAL DISEASE INCIDENCE

The ASHA is under contract with the USPHS to repeat the survey made in 1962 of private physician reporting of syphilis and gonorrhoea. The Regional Office has had inquiries from other countries interested in making similar surveys and we plan extensive publicity of this new study for their encouragement.

(D) FAMILY PLANNING

The great international interest in the family planning movement is seen in the United Nations, which may soon have a full-scale world population programme; in the United States, where the government is heavily committed in this field; and in such organizations as the Population Council and International Planned Parenthood, which have more than tripled their efforts in the last 2 years. This movement has been acknowledged as a new factor in the spread of the venereal diseases. At the same time, family planning programmes offer us new opportunities for co-operative case-finding, preventive services, and health education. Overlapping of some of the medical and behavioural aspects of venereal disease control and family planning stress the need for co-operative efforts, and it is encouraging to learn that Dr Cutler hopes to undertake some operational research into this matter when he takes the chair this fall as Professor of International Health at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health.

Some Comments and Observations It is increasingly evident that new techniques and approaches to venereal disease control must be tested and we cannot afford to overlook the advantages gained from co-operation with other programmes similar to those of this Union.

We note that other countries are interested in the ASHA's programme in Drug Dependence and Abuse, and the number of overseas visitors who consult with the director of this programme increases each year. We also note that the relationship between drug abuse and the incidence of venereal disease is now beginning to receive some national attention. The study of the ASHA recommends that the international programme should increase its activities in the field of drug abuse. The United Nations Bulletin of Narcotics is publishing numerous articles on drug abuse in Latin America, where considerable ingenuity in finding new intoxicating substances is being demonstrated. These developments (and the observation made by Dr Guthe that "The international outlook has been more in terms of the drug and its control through legal measures than in terms of the individual victim and his medical and community needs") suggest that consideration should be given to including certain aspects of drug abuse in the Union's programme. There is some opportunity for pioneering here, since so far there is no international non-governmental organization in this field.

We have noted that, partly because of the more pressing health and economic problems existing in Latin America, venereal disease control continues to have a low priority there, which suggests failure to acknowledge the extent of the problem. We have had more requests from that area for health education materials, but most requests for information and service come to us from developing countries outside Latin America.

The following quotation from a letter to the Regional Office from Dr Cutler on the subject of the voluntary agency and its development in Latin America describes the present situation:

"The voluntary agency, to flourish, requires a certain national setting and mentality. To date this has not been created for lack of outside money and support for long-term visits of experts who can work closely with local leadership to insure an enduring programme".

Requests to the Regional Office from countries in Latin America indicate the need of working knowledge of the major concepts of voluntary work, of organizing community forces and fund raising, and of the basic techniques for the development and operation of non-governmental organizations. Until such basic skills are developed, and the individual countries of the region are able to sustain their own voluntary agencies, local resources will continue to be dependent upon shifting government priorities.

As part of an international non-governmental organization, the Regional Office for the Americas is aware that contributions to venereal disease control cannot be entirely measured on the basis of financial support and material aids. Consequently, it encourages and promotes positive efforts by leaders and organizations which are attempting to create citizen understanding and support for social health programmes.

A strong resource of the Regional Office is our network of communications among individuals established over the years through the Union. One of our most prized resources is our relationship with the VDT programme of WHO and especially with its Director, Dr Guthe. Another most useful contact is maintained with the USPHS through Dr William Brown. Our UN liaison assignments at headquarters in New York and in Washington continue to open doors to opportunities for service in other countries.

The Future We have the following aims for the next 2 years:

- to increase the translation and distribution of material;
- to participate in the programmes of such groups as Family Planning Associations, Demographic Associations, Maternal and Child Health Centres, and official programmes of Health Education, all of which offer opportunities for collaboration;
- to support and serve such projects as the International Study Commission during its visit to the United States;
- to support regional or national venereal disease conferences in Latin America for workers in the field;
- to maintain and improve its liaison activities with the United Nations.

Long-range goals, dependent upon financial support, include:

- Field service for the development of member agencies of the Union in Latin America;
- A strong programme of health education with material in Spanish and English;
- An information reference centre in New York which would cover all Union programme areas.

In closing, we extend our thanks to Prof. Heite and his committee and staff for their warm hospitality in this beautiful city of Munich, and for their untiring efforts given to develop this Assembly. May I remind all of you, my colleagues, that the Regional Office for the Americas is only a projection of the programme of the Union and that our strength depends largely upon close communication with each other, both here in this Assembly and between Assemblies. It is always a pleasure and an inspiration to meet with you.

V. Report of the Regional Director for Europe Dr Axel Perdrup

Since the last meeting of the Executive Committee in Paris in April, 1966, I have assisted in the organization of this General Assembly by correspondence with members and others and also with Prof. H. J. Heite. Relationships have continued with WHO Regional Office for Europe and with Dr Guthe in Geneva. Many foreign visitors have been welcomed at my office where they have learned of the Union and of the Danish way of organizing the management of the venereal diseases.

Activities In order to investigate the present VD situation in Europe, the European Office has sent out questionnaires to leading venereologists in most European countries to obtain statistics and personal views. The results will appear later in our Bulletin.

Efforts have been made to encourage Danish investigators studying problems in venereology and sexual behaviour, such as Dr K. Ekstrøm and Dr P. Hertoft, to present their experiences to this society; economic support has also been given.

At the International Congress of Chemotherapy held in Vienna in June, 1967, I read a paper on the prevention and treatment of late syphilis giving further clinical and statistical proof of the adequacy of treatment with penicillin alone. I also attended the Congress of the C.I.D.D. in Rome in 1966, and in June, 1967, assisted in a Danish television programme dealing with social aspects of venereal disease.

VI. Report of the Treasurer Dr Goffredo Tassi

My report (distributed to all members) covers the two financial years, 1965 and 1966, the incomes for which have been approximately the same, namely 2,100,000 L. (about \$3,500 U.S.).

In 1965 there was an additional contribution of \$500 U.S. by WHO for the study on the teaching of

venereology in the Medical Schools, carried on by our Regional Office in New York.

Expenditure has been contained within the limits of our budget, leading to credit balances of 213,000 L. in 1965 and 117,000 L. in 1966.

On December 31, 1966, there were arrears of contributions of 1,875,000 L. (\$3,000 U.S.). Some of the contributions of 1966 have been recovered during the first months of 1967, but there are still three defaulting members: Brazil, Japan, and Costa Rica.

I think we should consider the decisions of our Executive Committee, *i.e.* to suspend from membership those organizations which are in arrears for 3 years and also to have the authorization of the Assembly to write off from our books the arrears which it has proved impossible to collect.

However, before the end of 1967, further steps will be taken, through personal contacts of some of our Members, to approach the defaulting organizations, and I hope that success can be achieved.

Despite these minor setbacks, the financial situation of the Union is sound: all debts have been settled and we have in the Bank a reserve fund of approximately \$3,000 U.S.

In conclusion, I wish to express my regret on leaving this position and my gratitude for your co-operation and friendship. Although my commitments outside Italy are forcing me to transfer my activities to a different field, I shall always be ready to give my co-operation.

Mr King thanked the Secretary General and the Assistant Secretaries for their reports. He also congratulated the Treasurer on the satisfactory finances of the Union. The Assembly then approved the financial reports for the years 1965 and 1966.

VII. Programme of Future Work

The President presented the proposals of the Executive Committee and after some discussion they were amended and approved as follows:

- (a) Drug dependence and abuse in relation to venereal disease.
- (b) Detection of venereal disease in women attending for family planning and cervical cytology.
- (c) The concentration of prostitutes in certain large cities.
- (d) The effect of anti-venereal disease legislation in controlling venereal disease.
- (e) Population movements as factors relating to the spread of venereal disease.

VIII. Membership

Mr King asked delegates to make every effort to encourage both national associations and individuals to join the Union.

IX. Publications

The President reminded delegates that the *Bulletin* of the Union had been published in the *British Journal of Venereal Diseases* in 1964 and 1965, and that for 1965 had also been published in *Prophylaxie Sanitaire et Morale* through the kind offices of Dr Pierre Durel. It was hoped that these arrangements would continue. He also hoped that the proceedings of General Assembly of 1967 would be published with the help of Prof. Heite and his German colleagues; the prompt submission of the papers just presented was essential to speedy publication and distribution of the proceedings.

X. Resolution

It was resolved that, in consideration of the world-wide increase in venereal diseases and the evidence that medical education, undergraduate and post-graduate, in respect of these diseases was inadequate in many countries, an *ad hoc* Committee of the International Union against Venereal Diseases and Treponematoses should be appointed to seek continuing co-operation with the World Health Organization with a view to promoting and improving the teaching of venereology in its medical, social, and public health aspects, throughout the world.

XI. Election of Officers

Mr King recalled that it had been the custom for the Executive Committee to nominate the officers of the Union. It was for the General Assembly to make other nominations or to approve those of the Committee.

Mr King said that he had completed 5 years as President and wished to retire; he was delighted that Prof. Canaperia should succeed him. It was proposed that Dr Claude Nicol should fill the vacancy as Secretary-General, and as it seemed essential that the Treasurer should be in the same country as the Secretary-General, Dr James Jefferiss had been nominated, but Dr Goffredo Tassi should be retained as an Honorary Treasurer. The Assistant Secretaries-General were willing to remain in office. Mr King said that he accepted the vacancy as Vice-President with reluctance. It was thought expedient that there should be a Zone Representative (see Bye Laws 5-5) in the Far East, and Dr Rangiah's name was proposed.

It was recommended that the other Technical Counsellors should be re-elected. This left a maximum of six vacancies which it was proposed to fill with Dr H. Delune (*Belgium*); Dr P. Graciansky

(France); Prof. J. Gay-Prieto (Spain); Prof. F. Földvari (Hungary); Prof. P. Popchristov (Bulgaria), and Dr. A. Siboulet (France). The Assembly unanimously approved the election of all the officers nominated. The Executive Committee was now as follows:

<i>President:</i>	Prof. Giovanni A. Canaperia (Italy)
<i>Honorary President:</i>	Dr André Cavaillon (France)
<i>Secretary-General:</i>	Dr Claude Nicol (U.K.)
<i>Vice-Presidents:</i>	Dr H. Brun-Pedersen (Denmark)
	Dr Pierre Durel (France)
	Dr Ambrose King (U.K.)
	Dr Malcom Tottie (Sweden)
	Dr Bruce Webster (U.S.A.)
<i>Assistant Secretaries-General:</i>	Dr Axel Perdrup (Denmark)
	Mrs Josephine V. Tuller (U.S.A.)
<i>Zone Representative:</i>	Dr P. H. Rangiah (India)
<i>Technical Counsellors:</i>	Dr Carlos J. Alarcón (Venezuela)
	Prof A. Basset (France)
	Dr William J. Brown (U.S.A.)
	Dr Antonio Campos-Salas (Mexico)
	Dr John Cutler (U.S.A.)
	Dr Hubert Delune (Belgium)
	Prof. Franz Földvari (Hungary)
	Prof. José Gay-Prieto (Spain)
	Dr Pierre Graciansky (France)
	Prof. H. J. Heite (Germany)
	Dr Francisco Norton-Brandão (Portugal)
	Prof. Peter Popchristov (Bulgaria)
	Dr André Siboulet (France)
	Prof. Joseph Towpik (Poland)
	Dr Pierre Vejjabul (Thailand)

<i>Treasurer:</i>	Dr James Jefferiss (U.K.)
<i>Hon. Treasurer:</i>	Dr Goffredo Tassi (Italy)
<i>Legal Counsellor:</i>	Mr P. Pfeiffer (France)

XII. Future Meetings

The President announced that Prof. Földvari had invited the IUVDT to hold its 26th General Assembly in Budapest in June, 1969. The Executive Committee had discussed this invitation together with other suggestions and recommended that Prof. Földvari's invitation should be accepted with gratitude. To this the Assembly unanimously agreed, and Prof. Földvari joined his colleagues in looking forward to the reunion of the Assembly in his country in 1969. A meeting of the Executive Committee would be arranged in 1968 to make plans for the Budapest General Assembly.

XIII. Closure of the Assembly

As there was no further business, the President again thanked everyone who had contributed to the efficiency of the conference and wished the President-Elect every success for the future. Prof. Canaperia thanked Mr King and said that he would do everything in his power to forward the interests of the Union.

The meeting was then adjourned.